Banco de la República | Colombia

Somos el banco central de Colombia

Guide for Detecting Damaged Banknotes and Coins Friday, 7 June 2024 - 12:00

This guide summarizes the criteria that should help financial institutions, securities transportation companies, and users to identify the type of banknotes and coins that are **unfit** for circulation and should therefore be delivered to *Banco de la República* (the Central Bank of Colombia) to be exchanged for banknotes and coins in **good condition.**

1. Banknotes1.1. Soiling

A banknote is considered soiled when the entire surface of the banknote is dirty, making it difficult to check its security features. Its main consequence is an increase in the optical density of the banknotes, making soiled banknotes darker than clean ones. The following are some examples of **unfit** banknotes for this reason. A banknote with the same or a higher degree of soiling is considered damaged and should not be circulated:


50 MIL PESOS
AA00400515
50
COLIBRÍ PIQUICORTO
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA


BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
CTUQAO PEROTOA,
SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA
19 DE AGOSTO DE 2015
IMPRENTA DE BILLETES - BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
CINCUENTA MIL PESOS

1.2. Stains

Stains are localized concentrations of grease, oil, paint, ink, or any other substance. Some examples of banknotes that are considered **unfit** for this reason are shown below:



50
MIL
PESOS
AB6043550 7
50
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
AB6043550 7

50 MIL PESOS

AB1723256

BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA

COLOMBIA

CINCUENTA MIL PESOS

AB1723256

1.3. Writing and drawings (graffiti)

These correspond to the banknote’s deterioration due to the writing of figures, letters, or drawings on the banknote's surface. Some examples are shown below:




5 MIL
PESOS
AA15493517
5
PUYA
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA


BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
19 DE AGOSTO DE 2015
IMPRENTA DE BILLETES - BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
CINCO MIL PESOS
ABEJORRO


5 MIL PESOS
AA07342330
PUYA
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA


MELANCOLÍA
DE TODO LO VELADO,
TENUE, LEJANA Y MISTERIOSA SURGE
VIVA MELANCOLÍA
QUE DEL IDEAL AL CIELO NOS CONDUCE.
HE HABIDO REFLEJOS DE ESE CIELO
EN LA BRILLANTE LUMBRE
CON QUE AHUYENTA LAS SOMBRAS LA MIRADA
DE SUS OJOS AZULES.
LEVE CADENA DE ORO
QUE UNA ALMA A OTRA ALMA CON SUS HILOS UNE
OCULTA SIMPATÍA,
QUE EN LO PROFUNDO DE LO IGNOTO BRILLA,
Y QUE EN LAS REFLEJADAS DE LA VIDA
SE PIERDE Y SE CONFUNDE
CUAL SE PIERDE UNA GOTA DE ROCÍO
SOBRE LAS VERDES CUAL EL REPULCRO CUBREN."
JOSÉ SIGUNCIÓN SILVA
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
19 DE AGOSTO DE 2015
IMPRENTA DE BILLETES - BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
CINCO MIL PESOS

1.4. Stamps

Stamps affixed by entities or establishments cause premature deterioration of the banknotes, thus making them unfit for circulation due to their size or ink density.



50
MIL
PESOS
AB15357702
50
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
CINCUENTA MIL PESOS
AB15357702

1.5. Mutilations and holes

Banknotes that show perforations caused by tears, hooks, etc., or that have suffered the removal and alteration of one of their parts or some security feature such as thread, etc. The fraction of the banknote to be evaluated may or may not include the serial number of the banknote, but in no case should it be less than 50% of its original surface.

The following are examples of banknotes that should be considered **unfit** for circulation:



MIL
PESOS
AE3029721
50
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
CINCUENTA MIL
AE3029721

1.6. Wrapping

This classification corresponds to banknotes that have suffered a cut or tear causing total or partial detachment of some of its parts and that have been repaired with adhesive tape, using elements of the same banknote, and, therefore, do not comply with the conditions to continue in circulation. Some examples are presented below:




50
MIL
PESOS
AC27601286
62
CINCUENTA
50
GERENTE GENERAL
GERENTE EJECUTIVO
BANCO DE LA REPÚBLICA
COLOMBIA
AC27601286

2. Coins

Deteriorated coins are those pieces that show darkening, folds, deformations, burns, perforations, rust impregnation or coating, or other elements that alter their appearance.

2.1. Darkening

When the stain is uniformly present over the entire surface, a coin is considered to be darkened, making it difficult to establish its authenticity. The following are examples of different degrees of this condition that will allow the identification of a coin deteriorated for this reason:



2.2. Bends and deformations

These are coins that show alterations in their shape or size due to a force applied by an external element.



2.3. Burns

An alteration produced by the action of fire and heat, by contact with certain chemical products, by electricity, by radiation, or by friction.



2.4. Perforations

An alteration caused by external elements that penetrate or pass through the coins.



2.5. Impregnation or coating of rust or other elements

An alteration caused by a chemical reaction or by the impregnation of elements in the coin, producing changes in its appearance, color, and texture.



Fuente: https://www.banrep.gov.co/en/banknotes-coins/guide-detecting-damaged-banknotes-coins